

Prioritization of Category 5 for the 2010 Washington Water Quality Assessment

As part of the Integrated Report and submittal of the 303(d) List, Ecology is required to submit a schedule and prioritization for the establishment of TMDLS for waters in Category 5. The Memorandum of Agreement signed by Ecology and EPA on how Ecology will conduct TMDLS on a watershed basis provides the schedule for completion of TMDLS. This process is described in detail on page 45 of Ecology's listing policy

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/303d/wqp01-11-ch1Final2006.pdf>

and in section II of the Memorandum of Agreement between EPA and Ecology signed October 29, 1997. As part of that scheduling process the listings are prioritized at the beginning of the scoping process. This is described in Section III of the Memorandum of Agreement.

Ecology's TMDL prioritization and scheduling process is a Five Step, Five Year process.

Year 1 SCOPING:

Identify and prioritize known and suspected water quality issues within the WQMA by assembling information from extensive community involvement and internal Ecology staff and reports, including the 303(d) list and the schedule for TMDL production. Produce a Needs Assessment and develop a TMDL priority list.

Year 2/3 DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS:

Develop Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPPs) for TMDLS. Conduct water quality monitoring, special studies, facility inspections, and other general research. Develop technical basis for TMDLS.

Year 4 PLAN OF ACTION:

Develop a Plan of Action in coordination with the watershed community that addresses the priority problems identified in Year 1. Issue draft TMDLS for public comment and subsequent submission to EPA. Summarize strategies and management activities needed to implement TMDLS, to issue or reissue waste discharge permits, to form partnerships, and to address funding issues. Submit final TMDLS and summary implementation strategies to EPA. Develop a Plan of Action in coordination with the watershed community that addresses the priority problems identified in Year 1.

Year 5 IMPLEMENTATION:

Implement TMDLS; issue or reissue waste discharge permits, and work with local, state and federal programs, and partners to implement nonpoint pollution prevention and control activities.

**Department of Ecology
2010 Water Quality Assessment & 303(d) List**

The following is Ecology's schedule for addressing 303(d) listings:

2012, 2017

Begin the TMDL process by scoping the following water resource inventory areas:

WRIA 15 – Kitsap	WRIA 38 – Naches
WRIA 25 – Grays-Elockman	WRIA 39 – Upper Yakima
WRIA 26 – Cowlitz	WRIA 41 – Lower Crab

2013

Begin the TMDL process by scoping the following water resource inventory areas:

WRIA 8 – Cedar-Sammamish	WRIA 19 – Lyre-Hoko
WRIA 9 – Duwamish-Green	WRIA 37 – Lower Yakima
WRIA 13 – Deschutes	WRIA 54 – Lower Spokane
WRIA 14 – Kennedy Goldsborough	WRIA 55 – Little Spokane
WRIA 16 – Skokomish-Dosewallips	WRIA 56 – Hangman
WRIA 17 – Quilcene - Snow	WRIA 57 – Middle Spokane
WRIA18 – Elwha-Dungeness	

2014

Begin the TMDL process by scoping the following water resource inventory areas:

WRIA 3 – Lower Skagit	WRIA 52 – Sanpoil
WRIA 4 –Upper Skagit	WRIA 53 – Lower Lake Roosevelt
WRIA 5 – Stillaguamish	WRIA 58 – Middle Lake Roosevelt
WRIA 27 – Lewis	WRIA 59 – Colville
WRIA 28 – Salmon-Washougal	WRIA 60 – Kettle
WRIA 29 – Wind-White Salmon	WRIA 61 – Upper Lake Roosevelt
WRIA 30 – Klickitat	WRIA 62 – Pend Oreille
WRIA 31 – Rock-Glade	

2015

Begin the TMDL process by scoping the following water resource inventory areas:

WRIA 6 – Island	WRIA 42 – Grand Coulee
WRIA 7 – Snohomish	WRIA 43 – Upper Crab-Wilson
WRIA 10 – Puyallup-White	WRIA 48 – Methow
WRIA 11 – Nisqually	WRIA 49 – Okanogan
WRIA 12 – Chambers-Clover	WRIA 50 – Foster
WRIA 36 – Esquatzel	WRIA 51 – Nespelem

2016

Begin the TMDL process by scoping the following water resource inventory areas:

WRIA 1 – Nooksack	WRIA 33 – Lower Snake
WRIA 2 – San Juan	WRIA 34 – Palouse

**Department of Ecology
2010 Water Quality Assessment & 303(d) List**

WRIA 20 – Soleduck-Hoh	WRIA 35 – Middle Snake
WRIA 21 – Queets-Quinault	WRIA 40 – Alki-Squilchuck
WRIA 22 – Lower Chehalis	WRIA 44 – Moses Coulee
WRIA 23 – Upper Chehalis	WRIA 45 – Wenatchee
WRIA 24 – Willapa	WRIA 46 – Entiat
WRIA 32 – Walla Walla	WRIA 47 – Chelan

Prioritization of Forest only 303(d) listings:

The state forest practices rules were designed and adopted, in part, to meet the requirements of the Clean Water Act and the state water quality standards. The rules, consistent with the Forests & Fish Report, contain the array of best management practices believed to be most effective in protecting and improving water quality and habitat for threatened and endangered species while maintaining a viable forest products industry. Because the rules are so detailed and complete, they essentially accomplish “early implementation” of the same best management practices likely to be used if a TMDL had been produced. As such, they provide a pathway to achieving compliance with the state water quality standards and the Clean Water Act.

While the forest practices rules are not primarily water quality rules, Ecology has a special role in their adoption and implementation, since many of the rules directly affect water quality. The Forest Practices Board adopts the forest practices rules, which are primarily implemented by the Department of Natural Resources. However, for those sections of the rules pertaining to water quality protection, the Forest Practices Board must reach agreement with Ecology. Ecology also has authority to independently enforce the “water quality” sections of the rules. In addition, compliance and monitoring programs for forested lands are being developed by the Dept. of Natural Resources, in collaboration with WDFW, Ecology and other stakeholders.

Therefore, in those watersheds affected only by forest practices, listings for waters impaired by sediment, turbidity, or temperature caused by forest practices on state and private forest lands will generally be lower priority. Exceptions may be made if requested by the landowners. Listings caused by forest practices in mixed use watersheds will be addressed according to the schedule above. TMDLs prepared in mixed use watersheds will specify that the implementation mechanism for achieving load allocations for forest practices will be compliance with the forest practices rules.